

Patterson,Robert (HHSC)

From: Hicks,Patricia (DSHS)
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2013 4:17 PM
To: LCraig@gov.IN.gov
Cc: Meismer,Charly (Charlene) (HHSC); Garcia,Ricky (DSHS)
Subject: Real Alternatives

Dear Ms. Craig:

Ricky Garcia asked me to follow up with you on your request for a contact that may be able to provide information on the Real Alternatives program.

We do not administer such a program at the Department of State Health Services; however, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) oversees the Alternatives to Abortion program. I am told that Charly Meismer in HHSC's Family and Community Services Office will be able to answer any questions you may have about the program. She can be reached via email at Charly.Meismer@hhsc.state.tx.us or by telephone at (512) 206-5133. (She is being copied on this message as well.)

For your convenience, I have pasted the following information provided on HHSC's website about the program:

Alternatives to Abortion

The Alternatives to Abortion program provides low-income pregnant women with pregnancy and parenting information and supports such as:

- Counseling referral and pregnancy information hotline, 1-888-Life-Aid or 1-888-543-3243.
- Texas Pregnancy Care Network website, www.texaspregnancy.org.
- Support groups in maternity homes.
- Referrals to community and social service programs such as child-care, transportation, housing, and state and federal benefit programs.
- Classes on life skills, budgeting, parenting, stress management and General Education Development (GED).
- Items such as car seats, maternity clothes, infant diapers and formula.

The information was found at the following link: <http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/providers/FACS/#abortion>

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Warmest regards,

Patricia Hicks, MPA
Legislative Liaison
Government Affairs Office
Department of State Health Services
(512) 776-7723
(512) 458-7624 (fax)
patricia.hicks@dshs.state.tx.us

From: Garcia,Ricky (DSHS)
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 2:06 PM
To: Hicks,Patricia (DSHS)
Cc: Dauster,Nicholas (DSHS)
Subject: Fwd: Real Alternatives

Patricia can you check with FCHS on this - see if folks know where to refer her.

Thanks

Ricky Garcia
(512) 776-7113
Department of State Health Services

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Craig, Lindsey M" <LCraig@gov.IN.gov>
Date: November 19, 2013 2:34:26 PM CST
To: "Garcia,Ricky (DSHS)" <Ricky.Garcia@dshs.state.tx.us>
Subject: Real Alternatives

Hey Ricky-

I've got another question for you... could you help connect me with the person in your state who would oversee the Real Alternatives program? It's usually funded with partially/or fully TANF dollars. Indiana is looking at bringing the program to our state and wondered what Texas' experience had been. If you need more background info from me let me know. Thanks for any direction you can provide!

Lindsey Craig

Family Policy Director • Governor Michael R. Pence • State of Indiana